

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Sergeant Robert W. Sweeney III.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army National Guard Sergeant Robert W. Sweeney III upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and the most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death in combat of Sergeant Sweeney; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Sweeney was a native of Pineville, graduating from Pineville High School in 2001, soon beginning his military service by enlisting in the National Guard while he continued his education at Louisiana College where he was studying criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Sweeney was a member of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 156th Mechanized Infantry Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team when the unit was deployed to Iraq in the fall of 2004, saying "if they call me up, I'm ready" and displaying a dedication to serving his country at a time when enemies around the world have sworn to harm America and extinguish the bright light of freedom that the country carries in a dark and threatening world; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Sweeney's highest priority was accomplishing his unit's mission and getting the men under his command safely back home to their families and

1 loved ones once their tour of duty was complete and he accomplished this with his brave
2 actions and uncommon valor; and

3 WHEREAS; Sergeant Sweeney always placed the needs of his country, his unit, and
4 his men above his own needs and personal interests, declaring to his father, Robert W.
5 Sweeney II, that he was not afraid and he was very proud to do his duty; and

6 WHEREAS, Sergeant Sweeney was only 22 years old when he embarked on a
7 mounted patrol on January 10, 2005, through the deadly, bleak, and war torn streets of
8 Baghdad searching for terrorist elements reported to be operating in the area with the
9 objective of disrupting the January 30, 2005, Iraqi elections and creating havoc, chaos, and
10 disarray in a struggling democracy; and

11 WHEREAS, Sergeant Sweeney and fellow soldiers were attacked by enemy forces
12 who struck their Bradley Fighting Vehicle with an improvised explosive device, mortally
13 wounding Sergeant Sweeney and a comrade and seriously wounding four other members of
14 the patrol; and

15 WHEREAS, the loss of Sergeant Sweeney and Platoon Sergeant Bill Manuel was
16 almost more than his family and friends could endure, their ultimate sacrifice for their
17 country made citizens in their community and state rally in support of the National Guard's
18 gallant efforts in the war on terror; and

19 WHEREAS, Sergeant Sweeney will forever be remembered by his family, friends,
20 and fellow soldiers as a dedicated soldier and his sacrifice serves as a reminder that freedom
21 is never free and Americans sometimes must fight to protect the freedoms and liberties its
22 citizens now enjoy.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
24 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a
25 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army National Guard Sergeant
26 Robert W. Sweeney III.

27 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be
28 transmitted to the family of Sergeant Robert W. Sweeney III.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army National Guard Sergeant Robert Sweeney III.